Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 FRB-01 OMB-01 L-03 /049 W

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R 230749Z MAY 78 FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8132

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E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: U.S. EXPORT DEVELOPMENT MISSIONS TO JAPAN:

MACHINE TOOLS/AUTO PARTS: TOYOTA MOTOR COMPANY ANNOUNCES

PURCHASE OF U.S. MACHINE TOOLS AND PRESSES

REF: (A) TOKYO 07895, (B) TOKYO 07936

- 1. SUMMARY: TOYOTA MOTOR COMPANY ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAS RECENTLY PURCHASED 1.5 BILLION YEN OF U.S. MACHINE TOOLS AND PRESSES AND THAT THIS ORDER WILL BE FOLLOWED BY OTHER PURCHASES. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT PERHAPS OTHER JAPANESE AUTO MANUFACTURERS MAY FOLLOW THIS TREND, ACQUIRING PRODUCTION MACHINERY AS WELL AS PARTS AND COMPONENTS OVERSEAS. END SUMMARY.
- 2. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS ARTICLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MORI OF TOYOTA MOTOR COMPANY, ANNOUNCED THAT HIS COMPANY HAS PURCHASED Y1.5 BILLION (ABOUT \$6.8 MILLION) OF U.S. MACHINE TOOLS AND PRESSES TO BE DELIVERED TO JAPAN BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. MR. MORI EXPLAINED THAT DUE TO BRISK DOMESTIC AND OVERSEAS DEMAND, TOYOTA IS IN PROCESS OF EXPANDING ITS PRODUCTION CAPACITY AND THAT THIS PURCHASE MARKS THE BEGINNING OF OTHER LARGE PURCHASES TO BE MADE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THIS ANNOUNCEMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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HAS CAUSED SOME NEGATIVE REACTIONS ON PART OF LOCAL MACHINE TOOL BUILDERS AND PRESS MANUFACTURERS, WHO ARE APPREHENSIVE THAT THIS PRECEDENT MAY BE FOLLOWED BY OTHER AUTO MANUFACTURERS. THE EQUIPMENT PURCHASED WHERE A) ONE 6,000 TON HOT FORGING PRESS FROM AJAX MANUFACTURING CO.; B) FOUR COLD FORGING PRESSES FROM NATIONAL MACHINERY CO.; AND C) TWENTY SETS OF GEAR-CURRING MACHINES FROM GLEASSON

WORKS, INC.

- 3. JAPANESE MACHINERY PRODUCERS FEEL THAT LOCAL AUTO MANUFACTURERS ARE DEGINNING TO THINK SERIOUSLY OF BUYING MORE U.S. MADE MACHINERY, AS WELL AS PARTS AND COMPONENTS, IN ORDER TO CALM CRITICISM FROM AMERICAN MACHINE TOOL BUILDERS. THE RECENT TOYOTA PURCHASE MIGHT BE INDICATIVE OF SUCH A DEVELOPMENT. BESIDES TOYOTA, NISSAN MOTORS APPEARS TO BE INCLINED TOWARD A SIMILAR DIRECTION AS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING: A) EXECUTIVE MANAGING DIRECTOR YANAZAKI OF NISSAN MOTORS, AS DEPUTY LEADER OF THE RECENT IMPORT PROMOTION MISSION TO THE U.S., MET WITH SEVERAL AMERICAN MACHINE TOOL MANUFACTURERS DURING HIS TRIP; AND B) NISSAN MOTORS RECENTLY ESTABLISHED A WHOLLY-OWNED SUBSIDIARY THAT WILL SPECIALIZE IN IMPORTING AUTO AND NON-AUTO PRODUCTS FROM ABROAD. (REFTEL A).
- 4. AS MEMBERS OF THE MACHINE TOOLS COMPONENT OF THE UPCOMING EXPORT DEVELOPMENT MISSIONS ARE BEING RECRUITED, POST SUGGESTS THAT SPECIAL ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO U.S. MANUFACTURERS WHOSE PRODUCTS HAVE APPLICABILITY TO THE LARGE POTENTIAL AUTO MANUFACTURING MARKET IN JAPAN. ACCORDING TO THE JAPAN MACHINE TOOL IMPORTER'S ASSOCIATION, THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT SHOULD HAVE GOOD SALES POTENTIAL IN THE LOCAL AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY: GENERAL PURPOSE MACHINERY, GEAR-CUTTING MACHINERY AND GRINDING AND UNCLASSIFIED

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: SALES, AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY, TRADE VISITS, TOOLS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 23 may 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment: Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960 Disposition Event: Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TOKYO09211
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D780217-0303 Format: TEL

From: TOKYO

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780526/aaaaawhv.tel Line Count: 95

Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 4e744698-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EA

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TOKYO 7895, 78 TOKYO 7936

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 29 mar 2005 **Review Event:** Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: N/A

Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2596246 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

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TAGS: ETRD, JA, US

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4e744698-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released **US** Department of State EO Systematic Review

20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014